



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY:

*Safeguarding
Hoosiers by
Planning,
Preparing and
Responding*

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THE HOOSIER RESPONDER

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Southwestern Indiana Organizations Unite for Long-Term Recovery Efforts

The recovery process following a November tornado in Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties continues. Federal, state and local government agencies remain committed to seeing the area through this lengthy, and from time to time, difficult process.

In December, residents of the affected area learned they could also count on community, faith and educational based groups in southwestern Indiana to assist them when over 40 local organizations banded together to form the Long-Term Recovery Committee of Southwestern Indiana (LTRCSI). Supported by IDHS and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), this

network of community-based organizations will help those who suffered losses because of the November 6 tornado and severe storms.

"These are groups that have pulled together to provide a coordinated approach to help disaster victims with a wide range of assistance," said J. Eric Dietz, IDHS Executive Director. "These organizations responded immediately after the tornado and now are working to meet long-term needs that are unmet after individuals have received federal and state disaster assistance."

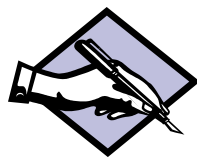
Trained caseworkers provide



Above: Bridget Naas, LTRCSI Office Administrator, is part of the community based organization ready to assist victims of the November 6 severe weather and tornado.

storm victims with information and assistance, ranging from helping to replace household items and answering housing questions to connecting individuals with mental health

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From the Desk of Director Dietz

Since its inception, IDHS created a vision to become a nationally recognized leader for maintaining an effective, comprehensive homeland security system. In order to attain this, we intend to lead Indiana, in collaboration with other government agencies, private entities, and citizens, to achieve the common purpose of preventing, protecting against, responding to and recovering from human caused or natural threats and events to people,

property and the economy.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of over 200 IDHS employees, we made tremendous progress and accomplished great things in nine short months. Among some of IDHS' 2005 initiatives are first time accomplishments for Indiana and the nation:

- The acquisition of digital statewide aerial photography in 2005 was the first of

its kind in the nation. The data is part of IDHS' effort to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to build a uniform map for permitting, planning and recovery activities. This information is usable across government regardless of software platforms, lines of business, or jurisdictions as a basis for any authoritative map.

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EMS Commission Studying Pulse Oximeter Use by Basic Life Support Personnel



If you are interested in learning more about the EMS Commission, contact Sherrie Crain, IDHS EMS Operations Director, at 317-232-6788 or scrain@dhs.in.gov.

At the November Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Commission meeting, IDHS staff presented the Commission information regarding the use of pulse oximeters by Basic Life Support (BLS) certified personnel in Indiana. Currently in Indiana, approved curriculum and rules neither allow first responders and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) to utilize pulse oximeters nor permit local physician medical directors to add treatment protocols beyond the approved curriculum.

A pulse oximeter measures how much oxygen the blood is carrying in a non-invasive manner by placing a probe on a finger, toe or ear lobe. A lower oxygen saturation rate may indicate bleeding or lung problems.

The Commission denied a proposal to allow pulse oximeter

devices on Emergency Medical Services (EMS) certified Basic Life Support (BLS) vehicles or the use of the devices by Indiana certified first responders and Emergency Medical Technician. Following the denial, the EMS Section of IDHS' Fire and Building Safety Division received numerous reports of widespread use of pulse oximeters in Indiana. The information prompted them to commence a study on the use of pulse oximeters to explore options for enforcing the current rules and curriculum or adding an optional module to the curriculum to make the device compliant with rules for use by certified first responders and EMTs in Indiana.

IDHS staff is currently inquiring on the use of pulse oximeter by EMTs and first responders in other states and surveying training programs related to the

device. Additionally, staff also will survey physician medical directors of Indiana certified EMS providers regarding the use of devices by basic life support personnel. IDHS staff will compile the results of their research and present a recommendation to the EMS Commission at its February 2006 meeting.

In the interim, EMS providers may request a waiver to possess and permit use of pulse oximeters by BLS personnel. The waiver request must include a signed approval form from the provider physician medical director for the use of the device, a description of a maintenance program for the device, and a training program and protocols for use. The EMS Commission will consider such requests at the February meeting.

IDHS Preparing Pilot Program for Mandatory Firefighter Training

Similar in format to programs delivered by the National Fire Academy, students in IDHS' mandatory training for firefighters will receive high quality training.

For more information on the mandatory firefighter training curriculum, contact John Buckman, IDHS Special Projects Manager at 317-233-5291 or jbuckman@dhs.in.gov.

The IDHS Division of Training continues to take steps to improve the training of Hoosier firefighters and augment the level of consistency of firefighter proficiencies throughout the state. A step in meeting this goal is the development of a mandatory training curriculum for firefighters. In fact, this rapidly advancing project is nearing the opportunity to conduct pilot program courses.

Similar in format to programs delivered by the National Fire Academy, students in IDHS' mandatory training for firefighters will receive high quality training. The training curriculum will include:

- A lesson plan.
- A multimedia presentation.
- A student manual.
- Skills checklists.
- Standards to measure a firefighter candidate's ability.

Instructor materials for the mandatory training will clearly state objectives and standards to assess if a student demonstrates competency. Additionally, the student manual will assist the student in understanding the exact requirements for demonstrating competency.

IDHS will incorporate the requirements for basic firefighter certification in this training

curriculum, in addition to information on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and safe driving operations.

This new training curriculum, along with the updated written and practical skills examinations, will help firefighter candidates meet all current mandatory and basic certification requirements. An instructor may teach these requirements as a combined package or separately at their discretion.

Instructor in service training will cover the features and use of this new training resource. "Train-the-Trainer" sessions are also under consideration for new fire instructors.



January EMA Spotlight...

LAKE COUNTY

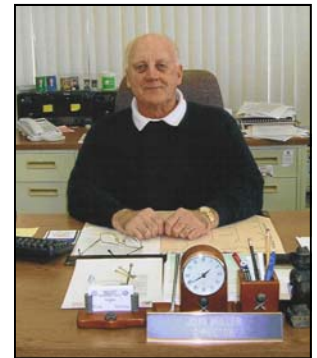
Jeff Miller is the Director of the Lake County Emergency Management Agency. Before accepting his current position in 1995, he was a member of the Lake County Sheriff's Department for 27 years. Jeff served in the Patrol Division, Crime Lab, and Detective Bureau. Additionally, he brought the Lake County Jail back up to standard. By the time he departed the Lake County Sheriff's Department, Jeff rose through the ranks to attain the rank of Captain.

Lake County EMA Progress:

- Brought together the eight major hospitals in

Lake County to sign a mutual aid agreement (the first of its kind agreement in Indiana and now includes hospitals in four other northern Indiana counties).

- Conducted a full-scale exercise on a radiological incident that involved numerous federal agencies (the filmed exercise is shown across the country).
- Assisted in forming the Lakeshore Infrastructure Security Group to focus on area security issues.
- Assisted with designing and implementing a communications system within each of the 13 hospitals in Indiana Homeland Security District #1 (HSD #1).
- Developed a communications system to allow for interoperability between all agencies in Lake County and expanded it to include the other four counties in HSD #1.



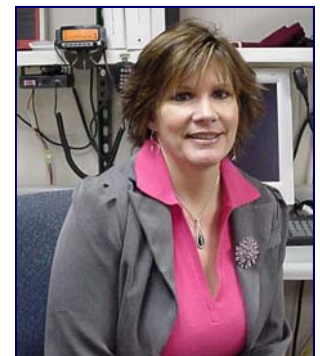
Jeff Miller, Director
Lake County
Emergency Management Agency
2900 West 93rd Street
Crown Point, IN 46307
219-755-3549

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

Jeanne Mahoney is the Director of the St. Joseph County Emergency Management Agency. Jeanne, a South Bend native, started her career in emergency management as a volunteer in the St. Joseph County Emergency Operations Center. She became a secretary with the St. Joseph County Civil Defense, predecessor to the EMA, and ultimately its director in 1997. Jeanne completed numerous emergency management courses and served in several capacities on her local LEPC. She is a member of the Indiana Emergency Management Alliance, International Association of Emergency Managers, National Weather Service, North Central Indiana Area Storm Ready Advisory Committee, St. Joseph County Anti-Terrorism Preparedness and Response Committee, St. Joseph County Medical Disaster Task Force, and St. Joseph County Citizen Corps Council.

St. Joseph County EMA Progress:

- Utilized Homeland Security Grant Program funds to:
 - Implement a county-wide identification card, personnel database and large incident computerized accountability system.
 - Obtain an ACU 1000 Black box radio patching system to enable jurisdictions to interoperability.
 - Purchased and stationed three response trailers throughout the county for large incident response.
- Coordinated with public safety departments to form the St. Joseph County Anti-Terrorism Preparedness and Response Committee to deal with homeland security issues such as planning, training, exercising and funding.
- Secured funds and coordinated with the Clay Township Fire Territory to build a fire extinguisher demonstration unit to travel throughout St. Joseph County for public safety programs.
- Added one additional full time staff member in 2004 to keep up with emerging homeland security responsibilities.



Jeanne Mahoney, Director
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Emergency Management Agency
South Bend Regional Airport
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South Bend, IN 46628
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From the Desk of Director Dietz

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- IDHS continues to support Project Hoosier SAFE-T, an initiative to create a statewide, interoperable, wireless communications system for local, state and federal first responders and public safety officials. Including FFY 2005, IDHS has now committed more than \$22.7 million in federal homeland security grant funding for project infrastructure and user equipment. Indiana is one of only a handful of states to develop such a system and those efforts were even featured in a recent article in *USA Today*.
- IDHS has strongly supported over the past year the development of the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center (MUTC) by the Indiana National Guard. The "urban" environment offered at MUTC offers training opportunities for contemporary response to a variety of homeland security and military operations. The center is the first of its kind in the nation and Indiana is fortunate to have such a facility in our own backyard.

Also in 2005, IDHS advanced communications with county emergency management agency directors, reformed the homeland security grant process, improved fire training, commenced planning to address the pandemic flu threat, and developed a framework for the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center.

Our efforts to enhance our working relationship with local

officials are probably best demonstrated by the addition of homeland security district field coordinators in each of the ten districts in the state. These coordinators serve as an important liaison between IDHS and county emergency management agency directors. We also conducted EMA workshops to provide the local officials with important training and information and worked closely with many of them by providing assistance in responding to various emergencies and threats.

To ensure fair and appropriate distribution of grant funds, IDHS pursued a variety of grant reform initiatives in 2005. We accounted for more than \$22 million in undocumented federal grant funding and developed and deployed an online grants management system to the counties and have initiated a full fiscal and programmatic compliance audit for all open grants.

IDHS also worked to improve fire training opportunities in Indiana. The department co-sponsored a mandatory fire training course with the Purdue University Fire Department this past summer and made advances in developing the State Firefighter Training System. The purpose of this training system is to offer consistency in fire and emergency services while enhancing the capabilities of the members of these vital services to Hoosiers.

Building on the already established relationship with the Indiana State Department of Health, IDHS commenced the

development and exercising of plans to deal with the possibility of a worldwide influenza pandemic if and when it occurs. These plans must take into consideration certain factors such as continuity of operations with a reduced workforce, security concerns, and even the possibility of quarantine and isolation orders.

IDHS is also moving closer to the establishment of a new intelligence gathering and analysis facility, called the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center. In this new center, the Indiana State Police and other law enforcement personnel will gather, analyze and share information about threats statewide, and reduce vulnerabilities through various prevention and emergency operation plans.

Other key projects for IDHS in 2005 include:

- Conducting monthly table top exercises in the state emergency operations center.
- Advancing use of MUTC by initiating homeland security district exercises at the facility.
- Enhancing Indiana government center complex campus security (including new state personnel identification badges and installing bollards).
- Cross-training building and fire inspectors.
- Advancing partnerships with Indiana's colleges and universities.

We also made a deliberate effort to become more proactive in emergency response last year. Rather than take a "wait and see" approach to

providing assistance following a disaster, our department took steps to identify perceived needs and step in with all of Indiana state government's capabilities as soon as possible.

Moving forward, IDHS intends to advance existing projects while taking on new tasks to further safeguard Hoosiers. These tasks include:

- Developing and fostering public-private partnerships to ensure continuity of operations planning and preparedness among Indiana's governmental entities and business community.
- Developing district planning councils and district response task forces in each of the ten homeland security districts in Indiana.
- Developing additional training opportunities by utilizing capabilities available at MUTC and supporting the further development of a water rescue training facility in South Bend, a facility unique in the nation.
- Developing a closer partnership with Indiana's congressional delegation to maximize Indiana's share of federal resources to support our efforts.

Although we accomplished much in 2005 and plan to be aggressive in meeting our goals in 2006, IDHS recognizes we must remain flexible and ready to take on additional challenges as things change at both a national and international level. Nevertheless, we remain focused on moving forward with the tasks at hand and hope we can rely upon continued support from our partners at the local level.

J. E. Dietz

IDHS Promoting New Fire Chief Orientation



Are you a new chief officer, an old chief officer or just an interested chief officer?

If you fall into any or all of these categories, this educational program is for you!

The Indiana Fire Chief's Association and the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association, in partnership with the Indiana State Fire Marshal and IDHS, collaborated to develop and present this new and improved Chief Officers educational program.

The program is for the recently promoted chief, the current chief who has some questions or the chief that just wants to do things better. The program is open to career and volunteer Chief Officers.

The program is available six times during the months of February and March 2006.

For more information, please visit <http://www.in.gov/dhs/training/chieforient.pdf>.

SW Indiana Organizations Unite for Long-Term Recovery Efforts

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counselors. The caseworkers identify disaster-related needs and enlist other long-term recovery organizations for help.

The LTRCSI also established a distribution center in Evansville to provide household items such as furniture, appliances and bedding free of charge to those who have lost them because of the tornado. Rev. Randy Anderson, LTRCSI chair, emphasized the importance of identifying and assisting those with unmet needs. "It's obvious in a community our size that some individuals might slip through the cracks. Our hope is to give those who slip through the cracks a means to get their needs met."

Tornado victims seeking assistance with unmet needs should contact the committee's office at 812-490-6806.

If you wish to donate items for the distribution center, please contact the LTRCSI office at 812-490-6806. The LTRCSI also will accept tax-deductible monetary donations at the following address:

*Tornado LTRCSI
c/o Catholic Charities
123 N.W. Fourth Street
Suite 603
Evansville, IN 47708*

Get to Know PCR!

If you are not familiar with the Program and Capability Review (PCR) from US DHS, you will be soon!

PCR is the new, competitive method by which the US DHS will award homeland security grants to the states, including local entities and Urban Areas Strategic Initiative (UASI) areas, in 2006. On January 17, the U.S. DHS visited Indiana to instruct ten state, nine local agencies, several homeland security-related organizations, including include the Emergency Management Alliance, InfraGard, Indiana Fire Chiefs and the Ambulance Associations, on the PCR.

Under the PCR, two parts summarize all of our homeland security efforts. The first part, the Enhancement Plan, is Indiana's multi-year plan expanding on the Indiana Strategy for Homeland Security. This plan explains how the initiatives in the strategy will build Indiana's capabilities by answering four questions:

- Where are we?
- Where do we need to be?
- How do we get there?
- What will happen if we do not get there?

The second part under the PCR includes the 15 Investment Justifications, or projects, that Indiana, as a state entity, is submitting for the grant award. IDHS will soon issue specific guidance throughout the state on our 15 investment justifications, in addition to information on what local entities will need to do to access part of this funding.

The application submission deadline to US DHS for this competitive homeland security grant is March 2, 2006. We respectfully request the cooperation of all our partners at the local level to assist us in addressing PCR requests and meeting this short deadline.

To learn more about PCR, please visit www.shsasresources.com, or contact Diane Mack, IDHS Strategic Planning Chief at dmack@dhs.in.gov.

Mark Your Calendar!



January 23

Board of Firefighter Personnel Standards & Education (Wayne Township FD; 10AM)

January 26

START Triage Lesson (Vincennes Township FD)

January 28

Crime Scene Operations (Blood Borne Pathogens), IDHS Mari Hulman George Search and Rescue Training Center

January 28-29

Indiana Fire Instructors Association Annual Meeting/Conference (Belterra Casino)

February 7

Fire & Building Safety Commission (IGC Conference Rm. B; 9AM)

February 8-9

Haz-Mat Operations Class (Monticello)

February 15-16

Fire Chief Orientation (Brownsburg)

FEMA 2006 Fire Act Grant Workshops

In February, FEMA will conduct Fire Act grant workshops through the Indiana to introduce new requirements, web sites and other pertinent information concerning the U.S. DHS grant program for Fire and EMS Services in Indiana. In addition to US DHS instructors, representatives for IDHS will also participate. (NOTE: All times are EST.)

February 7

- 1pm Vincennes Twp Fire District Vincennes
- 7pm Boonville FD Boonville

February 8

- 1pm Georgetown VFD Georgetown
- 7pm Fair Play Company # 1 Madison

February 9

- 1pm Town of Fishers Fishers
- 7pm Cicero Twp VFD Tipton

February 10

- 1pm Lafayette FD Training Center Lafayette
- 7pm Crawfordville FD Crawfordville

February 11

- 9am Greencastle FD Greencastle, IN
- 3pm Honey Creek Twp VFD Terre Haute

February 13

- 7pm English VFD English

February 15

- 1pm Connorsville FD Connorsville
- 7pm Gaston VFD Gaston

February 18

- 1pm Green Twp VFD Martinsville

February 20

- 1pm Huntington FD Huntington
- 7pm Auburn FD Auburn

February 21

- 1pm South Bend FD South Bend
- 7pm Rochester VFD Rochester

February 22

- 1pm Crown Point VFD Crown Point
- 7pm Rensselaer VFD Rensselaer

February 23

- 1pm Greensburg FD Greensburg
- 7pm Morristown VFD Morristown

February 24

- 1pm Bedford FD Bedford
- 7pm East Columbus VFD Columbus

Please welcome to IDHS...

Ron Saunders, Jr., Planner (IDHS Division of Planning)

Steve Pappas, Planner (IDHS Division of Planning)

Steve Holcomb, Planner (IDHS Division of Planning)



*Indiana Department of Homeland Security
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The Hoosier Responder is a publication of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to the IDHS Public Information and Outreach Office at 317-232-6632.